



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1352.0.55.086 - Research Paper: Socio-Economic Indexes for Individuals and Families (Methodology Advisory Committee), Jun 2007

Latest ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 23/08/2007 First Issue

Summary

About this Release

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) based on the Census of Population and Housing since 1986. The SEIFA indexes are widely used measures of relative socio-economic status at a small area level. The indexes rank and identify areas that are relatively more, or less, disadvantaged. They provide contextual information about the area in which a person lives. Yet, within any area there will be individuals and sub-populations with very different characteristics to the overall population of the area. When we make judgments about individuals, based on the characteristics of the area in which they live, there is potential for error in our conclusions. This potential for error is referred to as the ecological fallacy.

Using Census data for Western Australia, this paper explores the feasibility of creating individual and family level socio-economic indexes using the same conceptual and methodological basis as SEIFA. The analysis shows that a feasible index of disadvantage for individuals and families can be created.

© Commonwealth of Australia

All data and other material produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) constitutes Commonwealth copyright administered by the ABS. The ABS reserves the right to set out the terms and conditions for the use of such material. Unless otherwise noted, all material on this website – except the ABS logo, the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and any material protected by a trade mark – is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Australia licence